

NEWS RELEASE

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GRAFFITI VANDAL CAPTURED ON VIDEO TAPE – ROMLEY REQUESTS PUBLIC'S HELP IN IDENTIFYING CULPRIT – CRIMINAL CHARGES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ALSO ANNOUNCED

County Attorney Rick Romley revealed today that, at the request of Phoenix City Councilman Phil Gordon and neighborhood leaders concerned with increasing graffiti vandalism, sophisticated surveillance equipment was utilized to capture graffiti vandals on videotape committing their crimes. Romley released a videotape to the media and has requested the public's help in identifying the perpetrator by calling the GRAFFITI HOTLINE AT 602-262-7327. Rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction graffiti vandals will be paid.

Romley also announced the filing of charges against six individuals accused of graffiti crimes.

Ralph Meza (DOB 3/26/82), Phillip Rojo (DOB 10/8/82), and Alexander Kovacs (DOB 10/16/82), all of Glendale, Arizona, have been charged with causing \$172,000 in damage to 36 city buses. The three defendants face felony burglary and criminal damage charges and will be tried in adult court.

Clifford Latham (DOB 10/31/81) of Phoenix, Arizona is accused of spray painting walls at the Kachina Elementary School, 5304 West Crocus Drive, Glendale, Arizona, causing approximately \$500.00 damage. He has been charged with Aggravating Criminal Damage, a class 6 felony.

Juveniles Danielle Bauter (DOB 2/11/85) and Nancy Allred (DOB 1/27/85) of Phoenix, Arizona are accused of causing approximately \$500.00 damage to the bathroom at Cortez High School, 8828 N. 31st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. They face Aggravated Criminal Damage charges in Juvenile Court.

In addition, Romley also announced that in cooperation with Councilman Phil Gordon an educational program developed by Cooley Advertising will be embarked upon this summer, informing the public of new penalties including the denial and revocation of drivers licenses for juveniles convicted of graffiti crimes and the imposition of fines up to \$10,000 on parents whose children commit graffiti vandalism, in addition to other criminal penalties.

The educational campaign will include TV and radio public service announcements, posters, billboards, theater advertisements, and a school based program during the fall school year.